

Green Day, Oasis the focus of informative new DVDs



“Green Day Under Review 1995-2000: The Middle Years” (Sexy Intellectual/MVD Visual) ★★★★★ out of five — After exploding onto the scene in 1994 with the multi-platinum “Dookie,” pop-punk pioneers Green Day struggled to match that success until 2005’s “American

Idiot.” This informative DVD takes a look at the years between the trio’s most-acclaimed albums, focusing on the three studio records and greatest hits collection released during that span.

With a panel of experts comprised mainly of radio deejays, journalists and members of other bands (Green Day did not authorize production of the DVD), “The Middle Years” offers fairly in-depth analysis. Despite its rather specific title, the DVD also dedicates time to the band’s early days — including the two albums that preceded the “Dookie” phenomenon — and the impact of “American Idiot.”

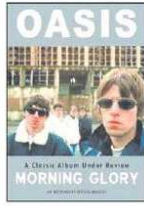
Extras include bios on the panel of experts, a feature on where said panelists think the band will go from here and a surprisingly difficult Green Day interactive quiz. (Jeffrey Sisk)
“The Queers Are Here” (MVD Visual)



★★ — Though they’ve toiled in relative obscurity for the better part of 25 years, punk rockers the Queers have built a loyal underground following. “The Queers Are Here” is the band’s first foray into DVD, but it’s unlikely to impress anyone but the most dedicated of fans. The concept is fine — live footage

(and an occasional music video) interspersed between interview clips with outspoken frontman Joe Queer. The video quality is subpar, from the often grainy and distorted concert performances to the too-dark interview segments. The music segments work on occasion — most notably with the animated video for “I Can’t Get Over You” and DVD-closing tunes “Punk Rock Girls” and “Sidewalk Surfer Girl.” But during his interviews, Queer comes across as comically bitter with his rails against bands like Fall Out Boy, My Chemical Romance and Taking Back Sunday — and he tells us at least three times that his principles led him to decline invitations to take part in the Warped Tour and to open for bands he thinks are inferior to the Queers. Whatever, dude. (JS)

“Oasis — Morning Glory: A Classic Album Under Review” (Sexy Intellectual/MVD



Visual) ★★★★★ — Some predicted Oasis were the next coming of the Beatles when the power-pop quintet invaded our shores in 1995 on the strength of their sophomore album, “(What’s the Story) Morning Glory?”

Fronted by squabbling brothers Noel and Liam Gallagher, the band was its own worst enemy with Noel’s arrogant soundbites and Liam’s self-destructive behavior.

This DVD breaks down “Morning Glory” on pretty much a track-by-track basis, with input from other musicians, friends of the band and journalists. As is often the case in such projects, Oasis did not authorize production of the documentary.

Even without the band’s input (there are a few clips of radio and television interviews with the Gallaghers from other sources), “Under Review” is an often fascinating little film. In addition to dissecting the album in painstaking detail, it documents the band’s much-ballyhooed feud with Blur and examines the impact the Manchester natives had (and still have) on British pop culture.

Extras include the complete 1995 radio interview Oasis and Blur conducted together at the



height of the feud, bios on the panel of experts and an Oasis interactive quiz. (JS)

“Best of the Gler Campbell Music Show” (RPM Films/MVD Visuals) ★★½ — Had the grainy VHS-quality video been anywhere close to acceptable, this DVD would have earned another star.

Still, it’s an interesting collection of live performances in Britain spliced together as though it were an actual concert. All of the required Campbell hits are here — “By the Time I Get to Phoenix,” “Gentle on My Mind,” “Wichita Lineman,” “Galveston,” “Rhinstone Cowboy,” “Southern Nights” — plus a dozer or so of his lesser-known tunes. The DVD also documents Campbell’s regrettable fashion decisions in the mid-’70s, including one particularly garish shirt that may well incorporate every color in Crayola’s 64-pack. In addition to his own stuff, he offers solid covers of Jim Croce’s “Time In a Bottle” and Kris Kristofferson’s “Help Me Make It Through the Night.” The highlight, however, is a stunning instrumental rendition of Bill Withers’ “Ain’t No Sunshine” with Campbell displaying guitar skills I never knew he had. (JS)

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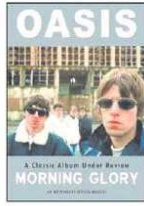
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